Abstract

The invention relates to a process for coating a material surface, comprising the steps of:
(a) applying to the material surface a tie layer comprising a polyionic material;
(b) covalently binding a bifunctional compound comprising an ethylenically unsaturated double bond to the tie layer; and
(c) graft polymerizing a hydrophilic monomer onto the compound comprising the ethylenically unsaturated double bond.

The coated articles that are obtainable by the process of the invention have desirable characteristics regarding adherence to the substrate, durability, hydrophilicity, wettability, biocompatibility and permeability and are thus useful for the manufacture of biomedical articles such as ophthalmic devices.